

## ABOUT THIS MANUAL

This Manual is a compilation of information which will be useful to anyone who has an interest in the Environmental Resource Permitting Program of the South Florida Water Management District. The last comprehensive revisions to *Volume IV* were completed in the mid-1980's. Since then, several factors which influence the design, review, construction, and operation and maintenance of surface water management systems have changed substantially.

First, knowledge of District rules and criteria has grown greatly among many of those who are frequently involved with permitting. Second, the use of sophisticated computer programs to assist in just about all aspects of project design and review is commonplace. Third, there has emerged a growing amount of quantified information about how the environmental aspects of a design should be considered. Fourth, knowledge about the water quantity and quality aspects of a project has continued to expand. Finally, there is the accumulated knowledge which comes from an additional decade of permitting activities.

Additionally, it became increasingly apparent that issuing separate permits - such as "dredge and fill" and "surface water management" - for closely related activities was inefficient. As a result of legislative action, the District adopted reorganized rules and amendments designed to clarify, merge and streamline agency regulations related to environmental resource permitting (ERP). In 1995, the District began issuing ERPs, which replaced "dredge and fill" and "surface water management" permits.

This Manual begins with the pertinent chapters of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) where all District ERP permitting regulations are codified. The Code Chapters are followed by the *Basis of Review for Environmental Resource Permit Applications Within the South Florida Water Management District* (often referred to as "The Basis" or "The Basis of Review"). The Basis - incorporated by reference in Chapter 40E-4, F.A.C. - contains the technical criteria by which an application for an ERP will be reviewed, with the primary goal of meeting District water resource objectives as set forth in Chapter 373, Florida Statutes (F.S.).

The third part of this Manual is devoted to "Regulatory Topics": discussions and examples of how the District has applied F.S. laws, F.A.C. rules, and Basis criteria to certain situations.

Part four is a compilation of various technical design aids which may assist professionals in the design of typical surface water management systems in south Florida. Those readers who compare these aids with those in earlier editions will note that certain nomographs and derivations of equations have been deleted (in the belief that such subjects are now well understood or at least accepted), environmental materials have been added and there is more discussion of the application of computers to project design.

After the design aids, the design examples comprise the fifth part. Each example is intended to provide guidance on how the previously-presented rules, criteria, and aids may

be employed in the design of a particular type of surface water management system.

The sixth and last section of the Manual contains some helpful information relating to post-permit activities: the maintenance of surface water management systems and the monitoring of wetlands systems.

The design aids, regulatory topics and design examples in this manual are intended to provide general information only; specific projects may require additional or different design considerations in order to address site-specific factors. Nothing in this Manual constitutes additional rule criteria.